SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, I would like to quote the report given by Mr. Jagmohan and which is specifically related to nuclear power sector. He has said, ...*(Interruptions)*... Why do you interrupt me for nothing? ...*(Interuptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Singlaji, you are taking the precious time of the hon. Minister and the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please conclude.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, I have to make one point ... *(Interruptions)*... My time is not the time of the Minister or the House. It is my time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): It is already 5.10. ...*(Interruptions)*... We had to conclude at five. ...*(Interruptions)*... Singlaji, you write to the hon. Minister and he will reply to your points. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now allow the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, more than Rs. 2,300 crores have been wasted. They were planning to set up a 10,000 MW nuclear power project in the nuclear power sector. But, it did not come up. Every time and in every meeting, there was a revision for lowering down the power capacity to be created. In the process, the Government of India has lost more than Rs. 2,300 crores. If this is the position I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking of opening up the nuclear power sector to the private sector also. There are security reasons. You cannot ...*(Interruptions)*... Please listen to me. In France, the major portion of power comes from the nuclear power stations which are mostly in the private sector. Lastly, if you do not permit me for long, I would like to ask the final question ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Anyway, this is the last question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, I would like to know as to what the need was to give an extension to the Chairman of the NTPC. You have the policy of not giving extension to Government employees. They have to retire at the age of 58. Why did they do this in this case? Does he enjoy a special clout in the Ministry? For what has it been done? Mr. Vice-Chairman, if you permit me, I would like to tell you how the NTPC is functioning. He is not really a technical person. I would have agreed with the Government if he had been a technical man or technical Chairman. He can be indispensable in that situation. But, he is a man from Finance and has nothing to do with electricity generation. But, he has got an extension. The House wants an explanation as to what was the consideration before the Government while giving extension to such a man. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Before the hon. Minister replies, there is a statement by Shri Chaturanan Mishra. I think we should permit him.

Statement by Minister

FLOOD HAVOC IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन मिश्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जीरो आँवर में हिमाचल प्रदेश में जो अभी भारी वर्षा और उसके चलते बाढ़ और लैंड स्लाइड की घटना घटी है उसके संबंध में माननीय सदस्य ने प्रश्न उठाया है तो मुझे यह सूचित किया गया कि इसके संबंध में एक सूचना सदन को देना है। मैं सुबह से प्रयास कर रहा था कि मैं खुद पहले ...(व्यवधान)

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे (गुजरात) : चतुरानन मिश्र जी, जब से आप मिनिस्टर हुए तब से सब जगह बाढ़ ही आती है। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): Daveji, please be serious. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : अगर आप गारंटी दें कि मेरे जाने के बाद बाढ़ नहीं आएगी तो मैं तुरन्त इस्तीफा दे दूंगा।

अभी कुछ देर पहले मुख्य मंत्री से मेरा संपर्क स्थापित हुआ जो सारे इलाके का भ्रमण करके आए हैं। उनकी रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 135 पर्सन्स मिसिंग हैं। अब वे मर गए या क्या हैं, इसका अभी हम कुछ नहीं कह सकते। उन्होंने मुझ से 20 करोड रुपये की तात्कालिक सहायता की मांग की थी। मैंने अभी अपने सेक्रेटरी वगैरह के साथ बात की, 10 करोड़ रुपया उनको कैलेमिटी रिलीफ फंड से तुरन्त दिया जा रहा है और 18 अगस्त को यहां से हमारे ज्वाइंट सेक्रेटरी मि० चड्ढा के नेतृत्व में एक टीम जा रही है। वह एसेस होकर जब आ जाएगा, तो बाकी फंड्स के बारे में हम कुछ कहेंगे। यह सदन के सूचनार्थ है।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : (राजस्थान) महोदय, मैं ने निवेदन किया था कि इस नेचुरल कैलामिटी में मरने वालों के लिए आप कितनी धनराशि घोषित करेंगे, कम-से-कम इस बारे में तो कुछ कहिए? महोदय हम ने 2 लाख रुपए की मांग की है। अभी आप कह रहे हैं कि 135 लोग मिसिंग हैं और एक दो दिन में पता लग जाएगा कि वास्तव में कितने लोग इस नेचुरल कैलामिटी में स्वर्गवासी हुए हैं। तो उन के परिवारजनों को आप कितनी सहायता देंगे, यह आप को बताना चाहिए।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : महोदय, मुझे यह नहीं मालूम है कि राज्य सरकार का वह गाइडलाइंस जो सैटर से है, उस में कितना रुपया दिया जाता है, लेकिन प्राइम मिनिस्टर्स रिलीफ फंड से 50 हजार रुपया दिया जाता है।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : यह 50 हजार रुपया तो बहुत कम है। यह 1 लाख कम-से-कम होना चाहिए।

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES): I think we are not debating on the statement. The hon. Minister was kind to have come to this House. He had business in the other House. We will take up the reply by the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*). Agarwalji, we will debate it later on. You should thank the hon. Minister for coming here. He had business in the Lok Sabha. Shri Yoginder K. Alagh, please.

Calling attention to matter of Public urgent importance Power Crisis in the country—

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH (Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to all the hon. Members, hon. Chavanji and the last Member who spoke, because all of them have shown a very important concern for the power sector and most of the questions raised were of a very serious kind and, as hon. Chavan Saheb said, "we don't want to make it a political issue", it is in that spirit that I will be trying to clarify many of the important questions that have been raised.

I want to make two things very clear at the outset. Let me make it very clear that as far as the Ministry of Power is concerned, firstly, we have not tried to belittle the nature of the problem that the country is facing. In fact, some of the Members who said that I had done that quoted from the statement that I had given. Secondly, nowhere have I said that in the next three years we are not planning to make a very significant advance to solving the problem. I am, in fact, very confident that with the measures that we are suggesting and with the support of this House and the State authorities, we will be able to make appreciable advance on the present situation because I believe that trying to understand the problem at present is half the way of getting to the solution. I don't agree